

though the video services they obtain are similar.

In addition, the provisions of the Video Privacy Protection Act of 1988, which was enacted in the wake of a scandal involving the disclosure of the video rental records of Judge Robert Bork in a newspaper, covers video cassette rentals but not such "rentals" if they are not in cassette form. In other words, if a consumer physically rents a movie from Blockbuster and walks out of the store with a video cassette, there are legal privacy protections governing the unauthorized disclosure of the consumer's rental choice. Yet if the very same movie is delivered online or over-the-air, and not as a video cassette, it is not covered by that statute.

Moreover, the digital video recorder is quickly becoming a popular device in homes around the country. The personal records of video subscriber choices and viewing habits are available to companies such as Tivo and Replay TV. Consumers should certainly be accorded the same privacy protections for subscribing to these services in my view as they receive under the law from cable operators today. Indeed, the information available to such companies may be more detailed and specific about a consumer's viewing habits than that which may be obtained by many cable operators. The total lack of any legal protections in this area is especially troubling given reports that such companies are willing to sell certain, aggregate data about consumer viewing habits to marketers and others. Currently there is no prohibition on the sale or disclosure of more personal television viewing data.

Mr. Speaker, the bill I'm introducing today is very simple and straightforward. It merely takes the provisions of law governing consumer privacy which today apply to cable operators and makes them applicable to satellite providers as well as vendors of other multi-channel video services, including Tivo and Replay TV. This bill provides essential, similar privacy protections for consumers regardless of whether they subscribe to Comcast or Cox cable, Echostar or DirecTV, or whether they also subscribe to Tivo or ReplayTV. This will keep our critical consumer privacy laws current with changes in the marketplace and advances in technology.

I look forward to working with my House colleagues, including my colleagues on the Telecommunications and Internet Subcommittee and fellow members of the Congressional Privacy Caucus, in addressing these issues perhaps in the next session of Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was unavoidably detained and missed the vote on S.J. Res. 18, Commending the Inspector General for their efforts to prevent and detect waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement during the past 25 years (No. 621). I intended to vote "aye."

TRIBUTE TO SISTER ANN MCGOWAN, RSCJ—RECIPIENT OF THE 2003 ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE BARAT AWARD

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister Ann McGowan, RSCJ, a distinguished Californian, as she receives the 2003 St. Madeleine Sophie Barat Award. This award, named for the foundress of the Society of the Religious of the Sacred Heart, honors individuals who over a significant period of time have made extraordinary contributions to Sacred Heart Schools, Atherton. Founded in 1897, Sacred Heart Schools includes St. Joseph's School of the Sacred Heart and Sacred Heart Preparatory.

Sister Ann McGowan, RSCJ, was born in Washington DC, and moved with her family to the West Coast when she was still a child. She attended La Jolla High School in San Diego and the San Diego College for Women, where she majored in Biology. She entered the Society of the Sacred Heart soon afterward, and spent her years as a novice at the Sacred Heart School in nearby El Cajon. She was given special permission to come to teach at St. Joseph's School, which was transitioning from being an all-boys parish school to being a co-ed Sacred Heart School.

Sister McGowan loved working with boys during the day, pinning up the skirts of her habit to coach baseball in the afternoons, and working in the girls boarding school at night. In the fall of 1976, she began her tenure as Principal of St. Joseph's School, Preschool through 8th Grade, and the school prospered under her enlightened leadership for 16 years. It was Sister McGowan's vision that the school pride itself on excellence in all areas, educating the whole child. She insisted on the highest standards for her students and for her faculty, and of course, for herself. Her eye for excellence helped to build one of the finest schools in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to honor Sister McGowan's work, her values, and her deep love for her students. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Sister Ann McGowan, RSCJ, as she receives the 2003 St. Madeleine Sophie Barat Award for her extraordinary contributions to Sacred Heart Schools.

U.S.-CHINA MARITIME AGREEMENT BEGINS A NEW ERA OF CO-OPERATION

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the recent U.S.-China maritime agreement, the result of successful U.S.-China maritime negotiations that concluded in August of this year. The agreement, which is now under final review by the Departments of Transportation and State, is the most significant maritime pact with China in the last 15 years, and represents a major breakthrough in U.S.-China maritime relations.

Its conclusion is a testament to the will of both governments and the importance of U.S.-China bilateral relations.

The recently announced framework agreement between the U.S. and China is significant because it addresses a number of long-standing impediments to expanding maritime trade between our two nations. The agreement achieves a long overdue goal, which I have supported, of ensuring a level playing field for both countries. While the specific details of the agreement are yet to be released, the fundamental issues of concern for the U.S. involved market access issues such as: bonding for Non-Vessel Operating Commercial Carriers, opening branch offices, and provision of logistics services. Issues for China included the filing of confidential freight rates and controlled carriers, among others.

The commitment of lead U.S. negotiator Captain William Schubert, U.S. Maritime Administrator and his Chinese counterpart, Su Xiang, Director General of the Department of Water Transport, was significant in reaching this agreement. Captain Schubert and Director General Su reflected the newfound will of their governments since the expiration of the last agreement in 1998.

Since 1998, the policies of the government of China on international maritime trade have evolved from protectionism, to an acceptance of the benefits of competition and open access for consumers and shippers of both countries. In January 1999, I met with Vice Minister of Communications Hong Shanxiang in Beijing. Minister Hong referred to China as a developing country whose maritime interests needed protection. I pointed out that in maritime it was the United States that was in the position of a developing country, with our fleet declining from 3,000 vessels in 1945 to 450 in 1999, making us the smallest maritime nation. China, meanwhile has become a maritime power.

I am pleased that the government of China has now recognized that in the maritime field, their industry is capable of meeting the challenges, and gaining the benefits, of a competitive system. With this agreement, both governments committed to making the concept of a more open and economically successful bilateral maritime relationship a reality.

The China Ocean Shipping Company (COSCO) was an important force behind the U.S. China Maritime agreement. COSCO is the 5th largest shipping company in the world and the principle maritime carrier between Asia and the United States. I wish to applaud COSCO's leadership in both Beijing and Washington, notably Mr. Gao Weijie, who kept all of us informed and helped to forge a consensus among the maritime parties involved.

Much work remains once the agreement is officially signed. Both sides must take completing actions to ensure that the discriminatory policies are dismantled, as provided for in the agreement.

Mr. Speaker, as the Ranking Democrat on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and an active maritime policy participant for over two decades, I want to commend Captain Schubert and Bruce Carlton of MARAD, Minister Hu of China, Mr. Gao of COSCO, and all maritime agreement participants who worked so hard to ensure that this U.S.-China Maritime agreement would become a reality.